

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0442:
"As a Declarer Playing a 4H Contract
Should You Follow the 'Rule of 7' and
When Your Partnership Holds 8 Cards in a
'Side' Suit Should You Play for
Your Opponents to Hold a 3-2 'Split'?"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

To return to the "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes", CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz.html>

Esther on her "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" website has previously recommended the "**BBO Bridge Master**" website:

<https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/anon/bridgemaster>

The "**BBO Bridge Master**" website allows you to declare your skill level, then shows a series of Hands and announces the final contract, each of which you then play as Declarer. At the end of play you can then request a solution in which the optimal "Line of Play" is discussed step by step. Here we use the free "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level-1 **Lesson A-21** which gives you the opportunity to see and *repeatedly practice* playing a given bridge Board. Esther may have altered some of the cards in the Hands.

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¹ As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, the purported ACBL Double Triple Emerald Gold Platinum LifeMaster with 20+ million ACBL MasterPoints, in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So, this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

BBO Bridge Master Level 1 Lesson A-21

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (7)

S: 4 3
H: 4 3 2
D: A K 7 6 5
C: 6 5 4

WEST (6)

S: K Q J T 9
H: 9 8
D: 9 8
C: T 9 8 7

EAST (9)

S: 8 7 6 5
H: 7 6 5
D: Q J T
C: K Q J

SOUTH (18)

S: A 2
H: A K Q J T
D: 4 3 2
C: A 3 2

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 H	PASS	2 H	PASS
4 H	PASS	PASS	PASS

On Trick #1 WEST leads his Spade King as "top" of a "touching" card sequence in a "long" Major Suit.

1. On Trick #1 should Declarer SOUTH "duck" given the "**Rule of 7**"²? The "**Rule of 7**" advises that Declarer "duck" or "hold up" for a number of Rounds equal to 7 - the number of cards held by the Declarer's Partnership. Here $7 - 2 - 2 = 3$.
2. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
3. What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH initially follow?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0442_a1.pdf

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play 'Rules'":
<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/rules.pdf>